



June 3, 2014

## **Urgent Chorley Park Switchback Trail Meeting**

### **Public Meeting – Monday June 9, 2014, 6:30-9:00 pm Rosedale United Church, 159 Roxborough Drive**

Dear MPRA Members and Friends:

After two years of public consultation and design input, this spring, the City started construction on the switchback path between Chorley Park and the Mud Creek trail leading to the Brickworks. After trees were cut down at the sides of the hill, a few people in Rosedale and Governors' Bridge started a "Save Chorley Park Hill" campaign including a petition. As a result, the project has been put on hold. We only learned of this campaign last week.

It is important to understand at the outset that the hill is not under threat and does not need to be 'saved'. The hill requires this project in order to provide a good access trail that will stand the test of time and be protected from erosion.

The switchback would be similar to the one leading from the Mud Creek trail to the Brickworks, allowing greater accessibility for strollers, cyclists (young and old), and seniors in scooters and wheelchairs, to safely use and enjoy the Beltline trail by connecting it with Chorley Park, thereby increasing accessibility for all of our nearby neighborhoods. For those reasons, Moore Park Residents Association ("MPRA") strongly supports the switchback.

For FAQs on the project, please see the links below and the attached PowerPoint presentation from the City staff almost a year ago:

- <http://ward27news.ca/chorley-park-switchback-trail-improvements>
- <http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=a6b1972386cd5410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD&vgnnextchannel=470bdada600f0410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>
- FAQs:  
<http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=7ecbd9064f1e5410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD&vgnnextchannel=470bdada600f0410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>

We understand that some of the opponents want there to be no access from Chorley Park to the Mud Creek trail and for the hillside simply to be re-planted. They are concerned that their neighbourhood will become a secondary parking lot for the Brickworks. If that's the only issue, presumably the City could institute a no parking zone around Chorley Park on weekends,

however, that could detrimentally affect the use of Chorley Park by nearby residents who drive to it.

The South Rosedale Residents Association (“SRRA”) has asked for the proposed trail to be made narrower and steeper, with a fewer number of switchbacks. The North Rosedale Residents Association (“NRRA”) feels likewise. This raises safety concerns with us and might make the path less amenable to strollers, bikes and seniors. They also do not want it to be paved. When we asked the City landscapers and planners a year ago whether it needed to be paved, we were advised that not having it paved would raise serious maintenance issues due to erosion, particularly with a hillside path.

These were all points that could, and should, have been raised during the public input process a year ago and should not be slowing a valuable project which has already gone through the proper procedure for involving the community.

In our view, safety is paramount and best practices should be applied. The ideal result would be a properly engineered solution, coupled with abundant replanting. The City already intends to plant about 400 native trees and shrubs in the switchback area, more than replacing the invasive species that have been removed and greatly improving the area.

We strongly believe that the switchback should not be stopped. If possible, even at this late stage in the process, any reasonable and practical suggestions by the community should be incorporated into the design. If however, they are not practical, at this stage in the process, best practices should prevail.

A public meeting is planned for Monday, June 9 at the Rosedale United Church at 159 Roxborough Drive from 6:30 – 9 pm (near Glen Road) in North Rosedale. Chris Lowry of MPRA will be speaking in support of the switchback.

If you favour the switchback, please attend the meeting to voice your support. Please let us know if you are planning to do so by kindly emailing two of our Board members: me at dcameron@bereskinparr.com and Chris Lowry at clowry@ecotone.ca. If you cannot attend, please email our City Councillor, Kristyn Wong-Tam at councillor\_wongtam@toronto.ca and cc Chris and me.

Thank you for your continued interest in our community.

Yours truly,



Don Cameron  
President, MPRA